

BERNARD TAYLOR

464 RIVERSIDE DRIVE

NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

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March 31st. 1947

Mrs. Hilde Reitzes  
For the Committee on Fellowships  
Julius Rosenwald Fund  
4901 Ellis Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Reitzes,

Enclosed please find my report for the auditions in Singing heard in Chicago on March 7 and in New York on March 21st.

I think you will find the report as we discussed it when you were here. If it does not meet with your approval please let me know. I had a good long talk with James Smith, and feel that he is going to do a grand job. Also, you will no doubt hear from Mr. Waldman and Mr. Cohen about Miss Phelps.

Am also enclosing statement of my expenses.

It has been a great pleasure for me to co-operate with you in these auditions, and I enjoyed so much meeting you and working with you.

With kindest personal regards, and good wishes, I remain

very sincerely yours,

*Bernard Taylor*  
Bernard Taylor

FISK  
UNIVERSITY

BERNARD TAYLOR

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Dear Mrs. Britzer,

Am returning biographical  
data under separate cover.

Also, would you be kind  
enough to drop a note to  
President William Schuman  
of the Fiskland School to thank  
him for the use of the building?

Many thanks,

Sincerely

Bernard Taylor,

"Copy"

REPORT FOR ROSENWALD AUDITIONS - 1948

The following is a report of the Singing Auditions of 1948, heard in Chicago on March 7th and in New York on March 21.

The highest ratings are the first six in consecutive order.

1. MR. JAMES LLOYD SMITH

A young man, 22 years of age, who has had about a year and a half vocal study, but in that time shows that he is the possessor of a very fine, beautiful voice and fine singing talent. He is intelligent, has an interesting personality, and in every way seems to have all the natural qualifications that should, with the right training and given the opportunity, be assured of success as an artist singer. Needs guidance as to course of study.

2. MISS HENRIETTA G. HARRIS

A very outstanding young lyric soprano. Miss Harris is sensitive and very artistic person. Her voice is lovely, and she has had in the main, fairly good training and some fine experience as a singer. She sings with keen insight and interpretive understanding. With further professional training in a professional school where the advanced training she needs may be obtained, she should find a place as an important person in the field of singing.

3. MR. JASPER R. BELL - Chicago

Mr. Bell has a very beautiful bass voice, interesting and intelligent singing talent. He is a serious singer who has taken advantage of good training up to now, and who needs continued work to bring him to a place of distinction and success as a concert artist.

4. MISS MARION N. GRAHAM

A young and very attractive singer, with a lovely quality of voice. Her study has been limited to two years and her repertoire is very limited, but she undoubtedly has excellent potentialities. With continued good work and opportunity, she should succeed as a singer.

## 5. MISS LENORA G. LAFAYETTE

A very young soprano with four years of study. Her voice is an unusually beautiful one and she has an exceptional singing talent. With properly guided training in a professional school of repute, she should attain a place of distinction in the professional singing field.

## 6. MISS PAULINE PHELPS

Miss Phelps has made such a fine improvement in her work since last year, and her possibilities are so fine that I would strongly recommend that she be given further opportunity for furthering her career. I fully believe that this further investment in her is amply justified from every standpoint.

## 7. MISS RUTH STEWART

Miss Stewart has improved steadily and very well during the past year. Her voice, while not too distinctive, is a good one, and she is an intelligent and artistic singer. I question, as in previous hearings, whether she will ever develop into a real first-class concert artist. Feel that she should teach and sing.

## 8. MISS MARTHA FLOWERS

A small but very vivacious and interesting type of singer, with a very pleasing voice. Feel that with her present equipment she would do very well in light opera or musical comedy.

## 9. MISS MARY E. ROBBS

Miss Robbs, while she has made ample and good progress vocally during the past year, would have done better and would do better work, if she had been in a professional music school where she could have received more musical discipline of the kind she needs so badly.

## 10. MR. JAMES W. HALL

A fine bass-baritone voice of fine possibilities, now in the process of transition. With good training and careful vocal work might, in time, be worthwhile.

## 11. MR. OSCAR GRIFFIN

A good virile tenor voice and a singer of intelligence. Feel that it is doubtful if he will go on very much farther.

## 12. MR. WILLIAM HENRY BODKIN

A teacher-type baritone, who has apparently reached a level beyond which, so far as public appearances as a concert artist is concerned, it is extremely doubtful as to how much farther he can go.

## 13. MR. RAWN SPEARMAN

A very dry and uninteresting tenor voice. Very artificial.

## 14. MISS GRACITA F. FAULKNER

A good voice, although small. Sings artistically and with taste and much intelligence. Feel that her age and training preclude the possibility of much further development.

## 15. MISS BRUCE T. HOWARD

Naturally a good voice, but badly trained. She is talented and seems intelligent. Not at all qualified.

## 16. MISS BETTYE E. VOORHEES

Hers is an inferior voice and is badly trained. I think she is a mezzo-soprano instead of a contralto, which is partly to blame for a poor performance.

## 17. MISS HELEN L. PHILLIPS

She has a voice and sings with a lot of temperamental gymnastics. Has too many mannerisms to make one believe that she is artistically sincere.